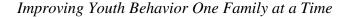


## **Division of Community Services**

# **FAMILY SOLUTIONS**





#### The Program

Family Solutions is an intervention program that program addresses the needs common to youths involved with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and their families. The 10week program works with parents and their children at the same time. The objective is to enable the parents to work effectively with their children as they embrace positive and pro-social interactions. Additionally, as the parents and youths modify how they relate to each other, adjust the goals and objectives they pursue. and identify the various behavioral patterns they wish to exhibit, the hope is that recidivism (reoccurrence of criminal behavior) will decrease as positive behaviors increase. This was indeed the result in Georgia where Family Solutions started and has been functioning for over 10-years. The program is managed by Families4Change.

"I can talk anything out with my mother. No conflict or situation is too hard for me and my mother to handle now."

Megan

### Who is eligible to participate?

Virtually all first time young offenders are candidates for *Family Solutions* with only two exceptions; violent offenders and active substance abusers (and some sexually oriented offenders). Participants are put through a 45 minute assessment/interview by facilitators and *Families4Change* personnel before they begin the 10 week sequence. Additionally, the parents and youths can be court ordered to attend and complete the sequence or it may be used in a diversionary manner. Historically, *Family Solutions* has concluded with a graduation and a pot-luck supper where the progress and strides made by all are acknowledged.

"I'm glad I got a chance to get my act together before it was too late. I'm thankful for this class."

Sonny

#### **Proven Success**

DJJ is conducting Family Solutions in multiple counties across the state with great success, and working to expand the program so that it is available statewide. Since the success of a Family Solutions 10-week sequence is significantly affected by the quality of the presenter, a strong emphasis has been placed on securing facilitators/presenters who have strong interpersonal skills, are energetic, and invested in helping DJJ families. Family Solutions has used DJJ personnel as contract employees of Families4Change to facilitate most cycles, and intends to continue this approach. However, other persons from the community can serve as facilitators as well.

The presentations of *Family Solutions* across the state have been very well received and it is the hope of DJJ to eventually have this program available in all counties. *Family Solutions* has without a doubt made a <u>real difference</u> in the youth and families it has served!

"This program has actually helped me open up to my family more. I can tell them more things about my life...and talk to them about my problems."

Haley



For more information please contact your local DJJ County Office (full listing on back) or:

Kevin Irmiter, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist State Coordinator for Family Services 100 South Main Street, Anderson, SC 29624-1619 Phone: (864) 260-4041 ◆ Email: <u>KIRMIT@scdij.net</u>

For additional DJJ resources please visit our website: http://www.state.sc.us/djj/

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age.

THE FOLLOWING OFFICES HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NONDISCRIMINATON POLICIES:

Title IX –Inspector General's Office – 803-896-9595, Title II & 504 – Special Education Office – 803-896-8484

# **DJJ County Office Directory**

Abbeville Darlington Lee

864-366-5312 843-393-5641 803-484-4550

Aiken Dillon Lexington

803-641-7735 843-774-4147 803-359-5526

Allendale Dorchester Marion

803-584-4751 843-832-4265 843-431-1110

Anderson Fairfield Marlboro

864-260-4041 803-712-6533 843-479-2961

Barnwell Florence Newberry

803-259-7114 843-665-3080 803-276-8243

Bamberg Greenville Oconee

803-245-5184 864-467-5875 864-638-9537

Beaufort Greenwood Orangeburg/Calhoun

843-525-1351 864-229-6648 803-533-6270

Berkeley Georgetown Pickens

843-761-8194 843-546-8723 864-878-7560

Charleston Hampton Richland

843-740-1649 803-943-4296 803-253-4050

Cherokee Horry Spartanburg

864-487-2564 843-915-8969 864-562-4200

Chester Jasper Sumter

803-377-8104 843-726-5666 803-778-2368

Chesterfield Kershaw Union

843-623-2378 803-432-9171 864-429-1640

Clarendon Lancaster Williamsburg

803-435-8587 803-285-9447 843-355-2772

Colleton Laurens York

843-549-1509 864-984-2518 803-909-7500

Tri-Counties (Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda) 864-445-8138

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is the state cabinet agency responsible for providing custodial care and rehabilitation for the state's children who are incarcerated, on probation or parole, or in community placement for a criminal or status offense. Our mission is to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.